

09/885,515

**IN THE CLAIMS**

Cancel claims 1, 3, 4, 9-14.

Cancel claims 15-18 and add new claims 20-23 in their place as follows:

1-18. (canceled)

19. (previously presented): A computer-readable medium whose contents cause a visual modeling tool to perform interactively with the display of a visual multi-level decision tree model in successive decision levels beginning at an initial decision level, by performing the steps of:

displaying a decision level of the visual multi-level decision tree model, the decision level including at least one visual object, each visual object being linked to at least one other visual object to form a multi-level decision tree and decision levels with more than one visual object representing a choice between the visual objects;

generating a plurality of browser buttons at each decision level for providing information concerning a choice of a visual object;

responding to a selection of a browser button to browse considerations, questions, and answers based on the browser button selected as an aid in making a choice of a visual object;

responding to a selection a visual object by causing the visual modeling tool to advance a current decision level to a next decision level for non-final visual objects; and

continuing with the steps of displaying a decision level, generating a plurality of browser buttons, responding to a selection of a browser button, and responding to a selection of a visual object until a final visual object is selected whereby a plurality of visual objects, each of the visual objects directly depend from visual objects which have been selected by a user, form a visual multi-level decision tree model that is displayed level by level in succession based on user decisions.

20. (new): A computer implemented visual modeling tool comprising:

09/885,515

a user interface including a display for displaying information from the visual modeling tool and interacting with the visual modeling tool;

the visual modeling tool operating to interactively and gradually display successive decision levels of a visual multi-level decision tree, each decision level including at least one visual object, each visual object being linked to at least one other visual object to form a multi-level decision tree, and for decision levels with more than one visual object selection of one visual object represents a choice between the visual objects;

the visual modeling tool generating at least one browser button at a decision level with more than one visual object for providing information concerning choosing between said more than one visual object; and

the user interface operating to control the display so that as a user selects visual objects, the display displays only visual objects which depend from visual objects which have been selected;

wherein the browser buttons at each decision level further comprises a browser button to browse considerations concerning a selection of a visual object.

21. (new): A computer implemented visual modeling tool comprising:

a user interface including a display for displaying information from the visual modeling tool and interacting with the visual modeling tool;

the visual modeling tool operating to interactively and gradually display successive decision levels of a visual multi-level decision tree, each decision level including at least one visual object, each visual object being linked to at least one other visual object to form a multi-level decision tree, and for decision levels with more than one visual object selection of one visual object represents a choice between the visual objects;

the visual modeling tool generating at least one browser button at a decision level with more than one visual object for providing information concerning choosing between said more than one visual object; and

09/885,515

the user interface operating to control the display so that as a user selects visual objects, the display displays only visual objects which depend from visual objects which have been selected;

wherein the browser buttons at each decision level further comprises a browser button to browse questions concerning a selection of a visual object.

22. (new): A computer implemented visual modeling tool comprising:
- a user interface including a display for displaying information from the visual modeling tool and interacting with the visual modeling tool;
  - the visual modeling tool operating to interactively and gradually display successive decision levels of a visual multi-level decision tree, each decision level including at least one visual object, each visual object being linked to at least one other visual object to form a multi-level decision tree, and for decision levels with more than one visual object selection of one visual object represents a choice between the visual objects;
  - the visual modeling tool generating at least one browser button at a decision level with more than one visual object for providing information concerning choosing between said more than one visual object; and
  - the user interface operating to control the display so that as a user selects visual objects, the display displays only visual objects which depend from visual objects which have been selected;
- wherein the browser buttons at each decision level further comprises a browser button to browse answers put forward by other users to questions concerning a selection of a visual object.

23. (new): A computer implemented visual modeling method for interactively displaying in succession decision levels of a visual multi-level decision tree, the visual modeling method comprising:
- displaying a decision level of the visual multi-level decision tree model, the decision level including at least one visual object, each visual object being linked to at least

09/885,515

one other visual object to form a multi-level decision tree, and decision levels with more than one visual object representing a choice between the visual objects;

generating a plurality of browser buttons at each decision level for providing information concerning a choice of a visual object;

responding to a selection of a browser button by displaying information concerning a choice of a visual object;

responding to a selection of a visual object by causing a current decision level to advance to a next decision level for non-final visual objects; and

continuing with the steps of displaying a decision level, generating a plurality of browser buttons, responding to a selection of a browser button, responding to a selection of a visual object, until a final visual object is selected whereby a plurality of visual objects, each of the visual objects directly depend from visual objects which have been selected by a user, form a visual multi-level decision tree model that is displayed level by level in succession based on user decisions;

wherein the browser buttons are internet browser buttons further comprising:  
a consideration browser button with an internet link to access consideration information as an aid in making a selection;

a question browser button with an internet link to access questions pertinent to making a selection; and

an answer browser button with an internet link to user answers to the questions pertinent to making a selection.